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For Immediate Release: May 2, 2005  
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**Fire Officials Ask for Public's Help on Newtonville Condo Arson**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Acting Newton Fire Chief Bruce Proia seek the public's help in solving a recent arson fire in Newtonville. At 5 a.m. on April 18, 2005, a just completed condominium at 5 Bonwood Street, Newton was the target of an arson fire.

Chief Proia said, "If anyone has any information about the fire, please call the Arson Hotline, toll-free, 24-hours a day. All calls will be kept confidential." The Arson Hotline number is 1-800-682-9229. He added, "Witnesses report seeing a black pick-up truck with a cap leaving the scene shortly before the fire broke out."

Coan said, "Arson is not a victimless crime. It diminishes the quality of life of everyone in the neighborhood and we hope someone from the community will come forward." Coan pointed out that, "This week, May 1-7, 2005, is National Arson Awareness Week."

This fire is being jointly investigated by the Newton Fire Department, the Newton Police Department and State Police fire investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The Arson Hotline is supported by the property and casualty insurance underwriting companies of Massachusetts through the Mass.-RI FAIR Plan as part of the Arson Watch Reward Program. The program offers rewards of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to solving an arson case.

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